Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-51. (Canceled)

52. (New) A method for embedding a visually perceptible watermark representing message data in an image having a plurality of pixels to produce a watermarked image, wherein the visually perceptible watermark is perceptible to a human observer when the watermarked image is displayed, but the visually perceptible watermark is not objectionable because the visually perceptible watermark emulates an appearance of noise of an imaging system, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a Fourier amplitude spectrum that is representative of the imaging system noise;

b) producing a watermark carrier with an Fourier amplitude spectrum that matches the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise;

c) producing the visually perceptible watermark using the watermark carrier and the message data; and

d) combining the visually perceptible watermark with the image to produce a watermarked image.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the watermark amplitude for each pixel is proportional to a noise standard deviation that corresponds to a signal level at the pixel location.

54. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprising the step of removing existing imaging system noise from the image prior to combining the visually perceptible watermark with the image.

55. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the noise of the imaging system is film grain.

56. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the watermark carrier has a Fourier amplitude spectrum that matches high frequencies of the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise and contains a ramp from zero for low frequencies.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising the step of adding low frequency noise to the visually perceptible watermark to match the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise.

58. (New) The method according to claim 52 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with the watermark carrier.

59. (New) The method according to claim 56 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with the watermark carrier.

60. (New) The method according to claim 57 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with the watermark carrier.

61. (New) The method according to claim 52 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with a second carrier having a Fourier amplitude spectrum that matches high frequencies of the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise and contains a ramp from zero for low frequencies.

52. A method for embedding a visually perceptible watermark representing message data in an image having a plurality of pixels to produce a watermarked image, wherein the visually perceptible watermark is perceptible to a human observer when the watermarked image is displayed, but the visually perceptible watermark is not objectionable because the visually perceptible watermark emulates an appearance of noise of an imaging system, comprising the steps of: ***(Support is found on page 3, lines 25-29 and page 10, lines 13-17)***

a) providing a Fourier amplitude spectrum that is representative of the imaging system noise; ***(Support is found on page 13, lines 6-12)***

b) producing a watermark carrier with an Fourier amplitude spectrum that matches the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise; ***(Support is found on page13, lines 12 through page 14, line 13)***

c) producing the visually perceptible watermark using the watermark carrier and the message data; and ***(Support is found on page 5, line 11 through page 6, line 15)***

d) combining the visually perceptible watermark with the image to produce a watermarked image. ***(Support is found on page6, lines 4-10)***

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the watermark amplitude for each pixel is proportional to a noise standard deviation that corresponds to a signal level at the pixel location. ***(Support is found on page 9, lines 5-12)***

54. The method of claim 52 further comprising the step of removing existing imaging system noise from the image prior to combining the visually perceptible watermark with the image. ***(Support is found on page 15, lines 8-11)***

55. The method of claim 52, wherein the noise of the imaging system is film grain. ***(Support is found on page13, lines 29-30)***

56. The method of claim 52, wherein the watermark carrier has a Fourier amplitude spectrum that matches high frequencies of the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise and contains a ramp from zero for low frequencies. ***(Support is found on page13, lines 12-15)***

57. The method of claim 56 further comprising the step of adding low frequency noise to the visually perceptible watermark to match the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise. ***(Support is found on page 13, lines 23-28)***

58. The method according to claim 52 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with the watermark carrier. ***(Support is found on page 6, lines 20-29)***

59. The method according to claim 56 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with the watermark carrier. ***(Support is found on page 6, lines 20-29)***

60. The method according to claim 57 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with the watermark carrier. ***(Support is found on page 6, lines 20-29)***

61. The method according to claim 52 further comprising the step of extracting the message data from the watermarked image by correlating the watermarked image with a second carrier having a Fourier amplitude spectrum that matches high frequencies of the Fourier amplitude spectrum of the imaging system noise and contains a ramp from zero for low frequencies. ***(Support is found on page 14, lines 5-13)***